



STATE SENATOR

BRUCE PATTERSON
IN THE LOOP ★

Serving the 7th District | P.O. Box 30036 | Lansing, MI 48909
PHONE: (517) 373-7350 | TOLL FREE: 1-866-262-7307 | FAX: (517) 373-9228
WEB: www.senate.michigan.gov/patterson | E-MAIL: senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov

Please forward to a friend!

In wartime or peace time, it is always the right time to honor our veterans. We will be observing Veterans Day on Wednesday, November 11th.

Take time to remember those who sacrificed for us. Say a prayer for those fighting for us now and for those who fought for us in the past. We all owe our freedom to a veteran.

Legislative News

Conflict of Interest

Guidelines needed now!

Senator Patterson introduced this legislation that places in statute guidelines requiring state legislators to abstain from voting when they have a conflict of interest. Current guidelines exist only in legislative rules and differ between the House and Senate. This would require public disclosure of a conflict prior to abstaining. It also expands the grounds for conflicts of interest to include business associates and it calls for the legislature to create rules to enforce the law.

The State of Michigan was graded an F by the Center for Public Integrity for its legislator disclosure requirements. The Center bases its rankings on public access to information on legislators' employment, investments, personal finances, property holdings, or other activities outside the legislature.

There is an immediate need for this legislation that sets up guidelines for conflict of interest and transparency for our office holders. Our state's reputation is at stake!

Resolutions

Oppose Cap and Trade

Senate Resolution 77

Senator Patterson co-sponsored this resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to oppose the implementation of a cap and trade program. This program will negatively impact Michigan residents through the elimination of jobs and by increasing the costs of goods and services. The cap and trade concept will result in higher energy costs. This would be devastating to families and businesses in Michigan. Cap and Trade is also a job killer. Some of the jobs will be lost due to the impact of higher energy costs and some will be sent overseas and probably never return.

Instead of trying to masquerade wealth distribution schemes as energy reform, we would be better served by focusing attention on providing incentives to advance cleaner energy, reducing inefficiencies in our current distribution center, removing tax and regulatory barriers to innovation and investment in new technology, and fostering stronger partnerships with developing economies to help clean up emissions where the rate of growth is far greater than in the United States.

To read the entire resolution go to

www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2009-010/resolutionadopted/Senate/htm/2009-SAR-077.htm

Defend the U.S. Dollar

Senate Resolution 86

This resolution, introduced by Senator Patterson, defends the role of the dollar as a world reserve currency. The resolution, in part, reads that our budget and trade deficits would not be possible without the willingness of foreigners to accept and hold our dollar. Foreign businesses and governments must continue to have confidence that our dollar will remain a safe haven for their own economic health. Should that confidence falter for long, our dollar will lose its status as the dominant reserve currency, and we will be weaker for that blow to our economy. Resolved by the Michigan Senate, that we urge Congress to defend the role of the dollar as a world currency.

To read Senate Resolution 86 in its entirety, go to:

www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2009-2010/resolutionintroduced/Senate/htm/2009-SIR-0086.htm

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness

Senate Resolution 87

Senator Patterson has introduced a resolution declaring November 2009 Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. Over 37,000 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year in the United States and over 34,000 will die from the disease. Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer deaths.

There is no cure for Pancreatic cancer and there have been no significant improvements in early detection, treatment methods, or survival rates in the last 30 years. Seventy five percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis and ninety five percent die within the first five years. When symptoms present themselves, it is usually too late for an optimistic prognosis.

The federal government invests less money in pancreatic cancer research than it does in any other leading cancer killer.

To see Senate Resolution 87, go to:

www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2009-2010/resolutionadopted/Senate/htm/2009-SAR-0087.htm

Override Veto of 20J Funding

Senate Resolution 88

Senator Patterson co-sponsored introduction of this resolution to urge the Michigan House of Representatives to begin the veto override process on Governor Granholm's line-item veto for the section 20j hold harmless school aid funding in Public Act 121 of 2009 (the K-12 budget). To allow all Michigan school districts to receive the full foundation allowance increase, section 20j was added to the State School Aid Act of 1979, to provide a formula for equalizing funding increases. Since that time, low rates of inflation have led to the continuation of section 20j funding - until the governor vetoed the line item. Since the budget originated in the House, it is incumbent on them to initiate the veto override process.

To read the full Senate Resolution 88, go to:

www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2009-2010/resolutionintroduced/Senate/htm/2009-SIR-0088.htm

2010 Census to Require Citizenship

Senate Resolution 90

This resolution, co-sponsored by Senator Patterson, urges the United States Congress to require that the forms for the 2010 census include a statement of citizenship. The census has a profound influence on our nation, including apportionment of congressional and legislative districts, distribution of millions of dollars and the composition of the Electoral College. The 2010 census is a short document that does not include direct question or statement of citizenship. This may result in penalizing the states with the lowest number of non-citizens. Because of the increasing number of illegal immigrants and the concentration of them in certain areas of the country, states like Michigan will suffer significantly - economically and politically.

To see SR 90, go to:

www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2009-2010/resolutionintroduced/Senate/htm/2009-SIR-0090.htm

Useful Information

Pure Michigan Hunt of a Lifetime Sweepstakes

Three lucky hunters will be selected in a random drawing - January 2010. The winners will be eligible to participate in every limited-access hunt for elk, bear, spring and fall wild turkey, and antlerless deer all in the same year. Application deadline is December 31, 2009. To enter, go to:

www.michigan.gov/puremichiganhunt

Around the District

Salute to Service Open House

Wednesday, November 11th 6pm to 8:30pm

Village Theater at Cherry Hill

50400 Cherry Hill in Canton

This is a free event to honor servicemen and servicewomen that will feature displays of military memorabilia. The program begins at 7pm.

Go Get Outdoors Owl Prowl

Saturday, December 5th at 6pm

Maybury State Park

20145 Beck Road in Northville

Park visitors will meet at the concession stand and enjoy a roaring fire, stories, refreshments and the opportunity to call in some of the local resident owls.

For more information, call (248) 349-8390.

District Office Hours

Friday, November 20th

10:30 am to 12 noon

Fred Fischer Library

167 4th Street

Belleville

Friday, December 4th

10:30 am to 12 noon

Trenton City Hall

2800 Third Street

Trenton

Friday, December 11th

10:30 am to 12 noon

Plymouth District Library

223 Main Street

Plymouth

Friday, January 8th

12:30 pm to 2 pm

Flat Rock Library

25200 Gibraltar Road

Flat Rock

Friday January 22nd
10:30 am to 12 noon
Sumpter Township Hall
23480 Sumpter Road
Sumpter

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via email, please contact my office at senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you! Visit www.senatorbrucepatterson.com

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